



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Quoting Coach Gottfried

Describe yourself as a coach.

"I'm a very intense coach, but at the same time I'm sincere with my players and co-workers. I have a deep interest in my players' well-being, and I'm a little tough on them academically. But it's for their own good, and the players soon realize that I want them to succeed as a student as well as an athlete."

What do you like to do away from coaching?

"I'm an avid reader. When I'm not reading, I try to spend as much time as possible with my family. Basketball takes up so much time during the season that you begin to miss the family. I enjoy taking the family on a trip or just sitting at home and relaxing."

Evaluate your team's strengths and weaknesses.

"I feel we have a lot more depth this season than last. All of our returning players saw considerable action last year because of our numerous injuries and illnesses. There's plenty of height, and I'm hoping it will give us better play inside than we have had. However, we're a little short on game experience. We relied on Wayne Abrams and Barry Smith to score a majority of our points last year, and this year some of the other players must score for us. Physically, our players have the height and jumping ability, but we lack overall strength."

Have you changed as a coach from the time you began your career until present?

"I don't feel like I have changed in the past three years. I'm a firm believer in going with what has been successful in the past. When I came to SIU I had definite goals in mind, and I haven't veered from those goals so far."

Evaluate the MVC race.

"I look for The Valley to be stronger than a year ago. Ever since I came into The Valley, I have made the statement in pre-season that the league looks stronger than the previous year. This year will be no exception. The top four finishers of last year, Bradley, West Texas State, Wichita State, and Creighton, all look stronger than last season."

Who or what has been the biggest influence in your life?

"I have had many people influence my life including my father, mother, brothers, wife and children. They all have had influences in various ways upon my coaching career."

Joe Gottfried

Joe Gottfried, a seven-year veteran of collegiate basketball wars, begins his third season at the reins of SIU's tradition-rich program.

Gottfried, who reached the 100-win plateau during the 1979-80 season, seeks to improve on last season's disappointing 9-17 record, only his second losing season as a collegiate coach.

A native of Crestline, Ohio, he was head coach at Ashland College when they made it to the NCAA Division III post-season tournament three straight years (1975-78), and had a combined 59-20 record.

With a 24-30 record at SIU, Gottfried is confident the program will turn around. Before Ashland College had its string of playoff appearances, the Eagles had a losing season in Gottfried's second year.

Gottfried started his athletic career at Crestline High School, where he earned all-state honors and a football scholarship to Kent State. After one year at KSU, he transferred to Ashland to pursue a basketball career.

A starter for three years, he helped the 1962 squad make the NAIA tournament during his junior year.

After graduating from Ashland in 1963, his outstanding Ohio high school coach-

ing career started at tiny Bloomville High.

In six years, his team compiled a 92-42 record, won three league titles, three sectional crowns, one district championship and had one regional runnerup in Class A, the smallest of Ohio's three classes. He was named Ohio Class A coach-of-the-year in 1969.

Following his stay at Bloomville, Gottfried coached one year at Sandusky (Ohio) Perkins High School, then moved to Lima Central Catholic, a Class AAA high school. In one season at Lima, he garnered the 1971 Class AAA district coach-of-the-year honors after a 20-4 season and a regional tournament berth, the best in the school's history.

In the spring of 1971, he was inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame.

The following year, he joined coach Jerry Walke's staff at Ashland and in two years as junior varsity coach, compiled a 25-9 record.

YEAR	SCHOOL	REC.	PCT
1973-74	Ashland	16-9	.640
1974-75	Ashland	8-16	.333
1975-76	Ashland	20-7	.741
1976-77	Ashland	20-6	.769
1977-78	Ashland	19-7	.731
1978-79	Southern Illinois	15-13	.536
1979-80	Southern Illinois	9-17	.346
TOTALS		107-75	.588

Charles Nance

When Charles Nance came to Southern Illinois University as a freshman last year, he did not have any idea how much of a help then senior guard Wayne Abrams could be.

Abrams was one of the best players in SIU history, an all-MVC and all-district selection and the undisputed Saluki leader.

And Abrams did help Nance, both directly and indirectly, and both on and off the court.

One of Abrams' favorite hobbies was macrame. You know, plant holders, pot holders, etc. That's not your average collegiate basketball player stuff.

Not only was it Abrams' hobby. He also was good, good enough to consider opening his own business.

Nance also had dabbled in macrame during his senior year of high school.

"When I was in high school, I saw this lady making a couple of things, and that is how I became interested in it," says Nance, a 6-6, 220-pounder from Hopkinsville, Ky.

"Then I took a macrame class in high school and didn't do very well. I began to lose interest in it. But when I came to Southern Illinois, I saw Wayne make a few things, and I became interested again.

"I am not bragging, but I have become pretty good at it. One day, I hope to have my own business."

Both Nance and Abrams displayed their work at several arts and craft shows on campus, and some of Nance's creations decorate coach Joe Gottfried's office.

"That's really all I do in my spare time," says Nance. "It keeps me out of trouble."

On the court last year, the Salukis had trouble.

Early season injuries and illness put one-third of the team on the sidelines, and it was late season before things began to jell.

Nance was among those injured, and it took him a few months to adjust.

If making the conversion from high school to college wasn't enough, coming back from a broken hand was.

However, Nance feels the past is just that—the past. He is looking forward to his sophomore season with renewed hope even though SIU lost nearly one-half its scoring punch with the graduation of Abrams and forward Barry Smith.

Do you feel more comfortable with a year under your belt?

"I try to put last year behind me and

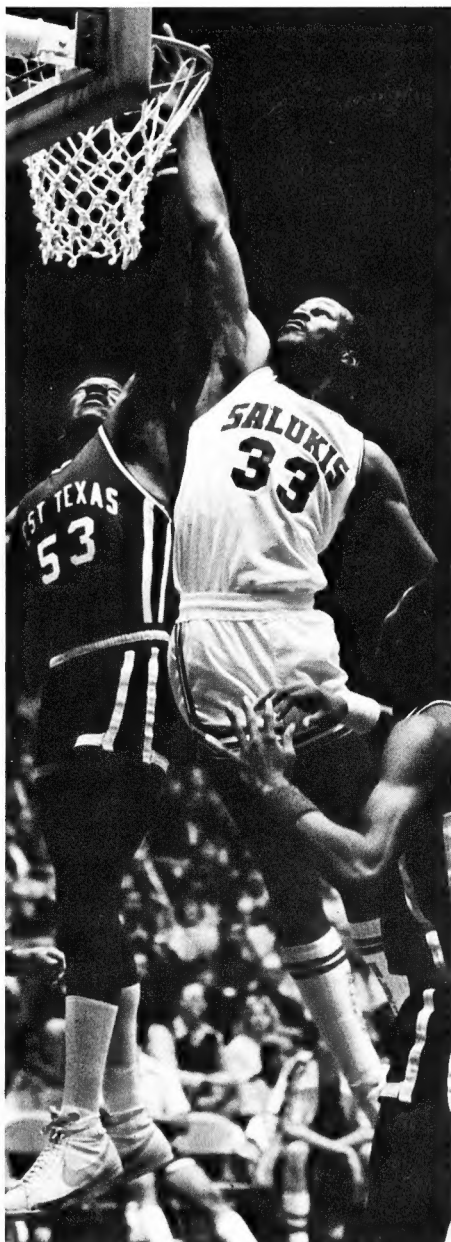


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try not to play as I did last year. I feel good about this year. I think I can handle the pressure of playing before large crowds better because last year I was a little nervous. High School to college was a pretty big jump."

What did you do to improve yourself?

"I have gained a little weight, and I feel much stronger. I also have been working on my dribbling because I would like to play guard if possible. My shooting is improving, but I also know that I have to work harder on my defense. Since we have a much bigger team this year than last, I am hoping that I will be able to move outside."

Despite the injury, were you happy with your progress last year?

"Not really because I knew there were a few times when I could have played a little harder than I did. After the game, I'd sit in the locker room and say, 'If only I had done this or that.' By that time, it's too late."

How much did Wayne Abrams help you?

"He helped me a lot. He worked hard everyday, and I always tried to compete with him. If he came in first in something, I would try to be second. If he came in second, I tried to be first. We were pretty close."

Do you have any teammates involved in macrame?

"Some of the guys say they want to learn, but then they never come around."

What type of things do you make?

"I make plant holders, watch bands, towel holder, table runners and things like that. It really doesn't take that long once you learn to do it. When I am not going to class or playing basketball, that's what I like to do."

Realistically, how good can SIU be this year?

"I think we can win the Valley. I know everyone says that, but this year everyone on the team has come back with a positive attitude. We have everything it takes to be a winner. It's just up to us to do it."

As a freshman, Nance averaged 8.4 points and five rebounds per game, third best on the team, and Gottfried is convinced Nance will get much better.

"Charles has outstanding potential," says Gottfried. "Not only that, but he is the type of person who will work hard and is very coachable."

Nance does not have to prove his desire.

It began in junior high school when he wasn't even good enough to make the team.

"When I first started playing in the seventh and eighth grades," says Nance, "I got cut."

"I felt like quitting, but my brother told me to keep playing. Everybody else was telling me to quit and get a job.

"That's really why I am playing today. I felt I had something to prove to myself and to everyone else."

He might even have proved something to his high school macrame teacher.